THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Since his assumption of office as External Affairs Minister, ten journalists have accompanied Shri Inder Kumar Gujaral on his visits abroad. The names of these journalists are:

S/SHRI

1. Subimal Choudhary, PTI
2. Prabhat Kumar Pandey, PTI
3. Naveen Kapoor, ANI
4. Devender Singh, ANI
5. Inder Malhotra, Syndicate Columnist
6. Hiranmay Karlekar, Aaj Kal
7. Pranay Sharma, Telegraph
8. Vijay Chopra, Punjab Kesari
9. Tarun Basu, India Abroad
10. Saeed Naqvi, World Report

Interested journalists often approach the Ministry to cover visits by the Minister of External Affairs to foreign countries. These visits are facilitated by the Ministry and assistance for visas, appointments, hotel bookings as well as transportation is provided to them. Relevant background information is disseminated to these journalists and the host governments are requested to extend normal courtesies which include inter alia-accreditation if required, briefings, access to venues and interviews with relevant personalities. If the Minister is taking a special flight, journalists are taken on board on a space available basis. The reputation of the newspaper/ agency, its reach; its interest in the area being visited; its impact; and the overall spread or coverage generated—are factors taken into account while examining the composition of the media party. Likewise local correspondents of newspapers/agencies based abroad often wish to cover EAM's visits to their regions and the Ministry/Missions assist them in a similar manner. Except in the case of air travel by special aircraft, journalists are advised that expenditure on such visits is to be borne by them or their parent organisations.

Guidelines for foreign Debt incurred by Indian Telecom Companies

2723. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government has isued guidelines on the quantum of foreign debt that could be incurred by Indian Telecom companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that huge debts in foreign exchange may be imposed on the country; and

(d) if so, the safeguards proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PARASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) The tenders for Basic Telephone Service and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service contain a provision that External Commercial Borrowings are not to exceed twice the foreign equity in each company. This is further subjected to any limitation that may be imposed by Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

(c) and (d) The bidder companies for the above services have not submitted any details on the quantum of external borrowings for their projects.

खादी कपड़े के निर्माण को प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु योजनायें

2724. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में खादी, हथकरघा तथा कुटीर उद्योगों में बनने वाले कपड़े के निर्माण तथा विपणन को प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु वर्तमान में चल रही योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) क्या सरकार इन उद्योगों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिये नयी योजनायें बनाने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?